



SF 276 – Crime Victim Compensation (LSB1190SV)

Analyst: Laura Book (Phone: (515)725-0509) (laura.book@legis.iowa.gov)

Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

Senate File 276 concerns compensation payable under the Victim Compensation Program. The Bill expands the qualifying circumstances for economic loss and amends the compensation limitations under Iowa Code section **915.86**.

Senate File 276 also allows a victim, secondary victim, or survivor of a deceased victim to be awarded additional compensation of up to \$5,000 per person under one of the following circumstances:

- The expenses were not eligible for compensation at the time the initial application for benefits was made;
- The qualifying person demonstrates an undue hardship, and the eligibility requirements and compensation limits at the time of application prevent compensation;
- The qualifying person incurs additional expenses from a “new event” that would otherwise be compensable, but for the compensation limits.

Background

The Victim Compensation Fund is administered by the Crime Victim Assistance Division of the Office of the Attorney General. Receipts to the Fund include criminal fines and penalties, victim restitution, a percentage of wages earned by inmates employed in the private sector, and federal funds. The year-end balance in the Fund carries forward to the next fiscal year. For further information, refer to the Legislative Services Agency Budget Unit Brief **Victim Compensation Fund**.

In FY 2016, the Fund had a total of \$8.3 million in receipts and carried forward a balance of approximately \$2.2 million to FY 2017.

Assumptions

- The average payout per claimant and for primary and secondary applicants will remain at less than \$2,000 each.
- Claims for funeral expenses, and essential clothing and bedding replacement, will continue to be the most common categories to reach the compensation limitation. It is also assumed that the funeral and clothing expenses will remain at \$7,500 and \$200, respectively.

Fiscal Impact

Senate File 276 is estimated to increase Victim Compensation Fund expenditures by \$200,000 annually. Over the past six years, applicants have reached the compensation limitation on benefit categories a total of 1,452 times. It is uncertain how many claims for additional compensation will occur, but the cost is unlikely to have a substantial impact on the Fund.

Source

IA Department of Justice

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

February 17, 2017

The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.
